

THE DAY OF THE LORD (PART 2)

1 Thess 5:1-3

Views of history

1. Cyclical: history of mankind is constant circle of repetition

World view of new age movement ...Hinduism in the west.

Find fulfillment in life if rise to some level of mystical consciousness that transcends reality. Puts man in state of unconsciousness--nirvana.

2. Atheistic Existential: history is a line .

There is no God.

We are the result of arrangement of atoms or some primeval slime... out of it oozed something or other that eventually became what is and who knows what will eventually happen. We are simply in an accidental existence and only way to live is to cram it full of every bit of gusto can possibly get.

Popular view of philosophers and hedonists

3. There is a Sovereign creator-- God

- History the working of God's purposes as explained in scripture.
- God sovereign over all history.
- Christ main person of history. Paul presents this view of history

Every man lives in the shadow of great and terrible Day of the Lord.

No passage dealing with rapture gives any preliminary signs

Rapture: sign-less event

Day of the Lord---signs to indicate its nearness.

Before Day of Lord

- Mal 4:5 One like Elijah must come as forerunner of the Messiah.
- Joel 3:9 Nations gathered into valley of decision.
- 2 Thess 2 Apostasy
- 2 Thess 2 Man of sin revealed – anti Christ.
- OT & NT: darkness
- Sign of Son of Man in Heaven.
- Day of the Lord Hits!

Mat 24:8 *All these are the beginning of sorrows.* (Birth pains)

Birth pains come suddenly upon a woman. ... repeatedly, progressively more intense.

World hit with pain. Then another...another... pains intensified until final event takes place.

1st birth pain: Increasing at rapid pace Mat 24:5

False prophets in place to explain rapture away.

Representative: anti-Christ, beast of Rev of 13, little horn & willful king of Daniel.

2 Th 2:3 ... *man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;*

Pact with Israel. Rise out of Europe. Greatest power in world--revised Europe

World ruler move into prominence 3 ½ years into pact with Israel

Revelation 6--Christ with scroll in hands: Title-deed to earth. Time for Lord to take back earth-- bring judgment-- unfold wrath and judgment.

Before 6th seal--5 preliminary seals begin to unfold God's wrath in natural way.

At opening of 6th and 7th seals --- supernatural holocaust.

Starts to unfold at opening of 1st seal.

Rev 6:1-2 White horse, rider with a bow (speaks of power). -Conqueror's horse. No war -- conquest of political nature. ...offers false peace without war.

2nd birth pain: War Mat 24:6 ... *wars and rumours of wars:*

False peace not long lasting.

War breaks out. Dan.11 & Revelation.

Parallels second seal.

Rev 6:3-4 Red horse.. *and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace* . Escalates to place in Rev 9 ...army of 200 million --tremendous massacre.

Third of mankind killed

Rev 16:12-13

3rd birth pain. Natural Disaster Mat 24:7,8

Famines and Earthquakes...

Rev 6:5-6 ...*and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand.*

Famine prices.

Rev 8:7-12 Trumpets begin to blow....trumpet judgments...

Rev 9 scorpions and demons coming out of a pit who sting men and seek death...wild beasts...unbelievable series of events

4th birth pain: Persecution Mat 24:9

Some believers responded to preaching of gospel by 2 witnesses of Rev. 11.

or by angel, everlasting angel who flies through heaven preaching gospel.

Israel redeemed.

Rev. 7 Host of Gentiles who believe...no man can number

The world will turn on them, hate them, persecute them.

Rev 6:9-10 fifth seal...parallels 4th birth pain.

Martyred saints"

Rapid increase of false teachers. Out of them comes anti Christ--makes pact with Israel for 7 years.

False sense of peace throughout world.

Blood bath...Natural disasters; Wild beasts set loose on mankind

Martyrdom of true believers

5th and Final Pain. *Mat 24:14-22*

Worldwide preaching of Gospel by

- 2 witnesses,
- 144,000 Jewish evangelists who are sealed and protected from the antichrist's persecution
- Everlasting angel of Rev 14.6,7

Then comes the end.

Matt 24:15 Abomination of desolation.

Mat 24:21-22 Great tribulation (second 3 ½ yrs), apostasy rampant.

Antichrist massacres believers.

Judgment of God intensifies.

Move from first 5 seals to trumpet judgments--tremendously intense.

Ultimately to 7 bowl judgments -- more devastating.

Don't they see it coming?

Mat 24:11-12 sinning to the max. Restraint taken back restraint. Pit belched out demons ...more demons than ever. People indulging themselves with as much sin as possible.

Believing lies of false prophets.

Peace and safety.....

Mat 24:24 ... *insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.*

Great signs and wonders. Whole world curious

Will world miss Christians after rapture?

False prophets explain it as end of old and dawning of new! People plunge into sin and continue on as usual.

Mat 24:37-38 *Eating and drinking* takes care of now.

Marrying and giving in marriage takes care of the future.

Parallel passage: Luke 17:26-30 Rev 13:8-

There was another component in their deception: This is amazing.

2 Th 2:9-10 Satan, false prophets, false Christ's, antichrist, false teachers proliferating ...all deceived blind people who refused to be saved are going to be so deceived as to believe it all.

2 Th 2:11-12 *God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:*

Seals their damnation.

Mt 24:27 judgment come like lightning from east to west. Unexpected! Sudden!

1 Thess 5:3 ...*sudden destruction cometh upon them*

Utter hopeless ruin. ...destruction of well being...ruin of purpose of existence.

God ruin them, destroy them physically, and cast them into hell.

1 Th 5:4 We left in chapter 4 so we are not around in chapter 5.

It will come suddenly, without moments notice--like lightning.

When seventh seal broken in 8:1--silence for the space of ½ hour. It is over! Devastating.

2 Pet 3:10-12

Peter says false prophets think they have it all together. 2 Pet 3:3-4

Same as always!

Atheistic evolution view.

Cyclical view: Same ole cycle...never changes. Oh! It will change all right.

1 Th 5:3 ... *and they shall not escape.*

It will ultimately destroy everyone and everything.

They: All unbelievers, all who believe antichrist and false prophets, Mat 13:41-50 Heb 2:3 *How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation;*

So what? We won't be there....we belong to the light.

Our lost love ones will be there....they belong to the darkness